

Arts and Science Faculty Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2

November/December 1995

Governor General's Medal Awarded to Chemistry and Biochemistry Student

by O.S. Tee, Professor, Chemistry

Dr. Timothy Gadosy was recently selected to be the recipient of the Governor General's Gold Medal at the upcoming Fall Convocation.

As a Ph.D. student, Tim worked with binding agents called Cyclodextrins (CDs, for short), donut-shaped molecules formed by the microbial degradation of starch. Because of the "hole" in the "donut", they form complexes with a wide variety of molecular species and are beginning to have many industrial uses. Our studies were concerned with the effects of such complexation on the chemistry of CDs: on their reactions and on reactions that they catalyze. From Tim's work we obtained evidence of how the reactants bind in the CD hole during chemical reactions, as opposed to before the reactions. Tim's research has been very

productive. Besides his Ph.D. thesis, he is co-author on seven published papers, has three under revision, and has another, based on the last chapter of his thesis, nearly finished. Both Tim and I have presented various aspects of his work at local, national and international meetings.

From my perspective, Tim was the ideal sort of graduate student for research in physical organic chemistry. Besides being good at chemistry and biochemistry, he has excellent math and computer skills, invaluable for our data analysis, and is good with equipment. From the outset, he assumed a leadership role in my lab when I was on leave, and when I had several undergraduates working on different projects.

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Staff Changes in the Dean's Office

Dean Valaskakis wishes to announce that she has appointed Barbara Harris, previously Secretary to the Dean, to replace Larry Tansey as Budget Manager of the Faculty. This is a temporary reassignment until March 31, 1996.

Ms. Maureen Doheny, formerly of student accounts, begins as budget assistant starting November 13th.

Debra Brind'Amour, formerly Secretary to the Assistant, has assumed the duties of Secretary to the Dean.

Jill Abcarius, formerly Secretary to the Vice-Dean Academic Affairs and International Relations, has temporarily assumed the duties of Secretary to the Assistant.

Shoshana Kalfon, formerly assistant to the Academic Advisor, has temporarily assumed the duties of Secretary to the Vice-Dean Academic Affairs and International Relations.

Sandi Viger has temporarily assumed the duties of assistant Secretary to the Vice-Dean Administrative Affairs.

I am sure you will all join the Dean in wishing them every success in their new positions.

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News from the Dean's Office

Dean of Arts and Science

In the Dean's office at this point in time, besides juggling budget shortfalls, we are in the throes of processing sabbatical applications. There were 61 new applications with 8 deferrals from last year for a total of 69 faculty-wide. It is also contract renewal time again. These are being processed during the week of November 6th. The Faculty is proceeding with a self-appraisal under the chairship of Dr June Chaikelson with an open consultation meeting planned for November 13. Arts and Science Faculty Council will have had two special meetings to discuss the Blue Paper, "Setting the course for our Future", co-authored by Dr Jack Lightstone and Dr Frederick Lowy as well as the reorganizational chart for the senior administration.

The current issue of the newsletter focuses on the international aspect of the new Vice-Dean Academic Affairs and International Relations' portfolio. The Faculty supports her ideas and initiatives and looks forward to new ideas and expansion in this area.

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Vice-Dean Academic Affairs and International Relations

As I made my rounds to departments in the Faculty, a wide range of international activities were brought to my attention. I heard about many fascinating projects, which included student exchanges, faculty travel, international research projects and other initiatives. This note presents a sampling of some of these, followed by highlights of two different visits to the same country, with Henry Beissel (English) and Jon Baggaley (Education) writing about their experiences in the Ukraine this past summer.

For over ten years Anne Galler (Library Studies) has been actively involved in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Last spring she toured schools and public libraries in Sweden, Germany and Holland. The visits were arranged by IFLA colleagues. Recently, she presented a paper at the IFLA conference in Istanbul.

Judith Anderson (Geography) is chair of a joint Canadian-Brazilian working group called "Cartography and Children" that aims to improve cartographic literacy through a better understanding of the relationships children have with maps.

David Cheeke (Physics) has a

long-standing French connection, first with Grenoble and more recently with Besançon, where he is doing research on sensors made by micromachining, together with Electrical Engineering Professor L. Landsberger. The links with France have attracted French exchange students to Concordia for the past two years.

Raye Kass (Applied Social Science) is conducting research on how groups function in space (yes, outer space!). She has looked, in particular, on space crews in Russia.

At the initiative of Political Science alumna Xanthi Petrinioti, we have signed a preliminary agreement that will lead to exchanges with Pantheon University of Social and Political Sciences in Athens. Paris Arnopoulos has already been a visitor to Pantheon. By a happy coincidence, Journalism graduate Robert Peck, currently First Secretary and Consul at the Canadian Embassy in Athens, has plans to launch a Greek chapter of Concordia alumni. The two initiatives are sure to complement one another.

Pamela Bright (Theology) is editor-in-chief of *The Bible Through the Ages*, a multi-volume publication produced in collaboration with 200 scholars from around the world. The Journalism Department is hosting visiting scholar Sheng Xigui, a Lecturer in Photojournalism at People's University in Beijing. Mr. Sheng is attending courses in

News from the Dean's Office

Communication Studies and Journalism. He has also gone out on assignment with students from the Concordian to cover football games.

Simone de Beauvoir professors have been sharing feminist scholarship with colleagues abroad: Chantal Maillé, in Lyon and Rio de Janeiro, Lucie Lequin in Barcelona and Kaarina Kailo in Turku, Finland.

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Vice-Dean Research, Space and Development

You will notice from the heading that the item "development" has been added to the portfolio. The main manifestation of this, for the moment, is that we have taken over production of the Arts and Science Newsletter. Your submissions, comments and criticism should be sent to Lori Dupuis.

Still on the subject of publicising our services, activities, achievements and so on, did you know we have a web server of our own? Accessible from it, there is a handsome Arts and Science home page. Point your browser at <http://artsci-ccwin.concordia.ca/>. On it you will find links to the more obvious information for

students and faculty, but also, for example, the policy and planning documents which have recently been generated in the Faculty, in addition to certain tables of statistical information of general interest.

A few departments have set up their own home pages. You will see the links to them on the Faculty page - go take a look. I myself have been working on the one for Chemistry and Biochemistry, and I can assure you that it is easy to do, and fun, particularly if you have in hand machine readable copy from printed brochures describing your Department.

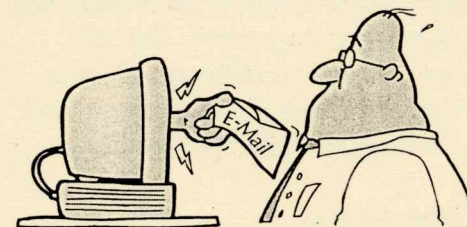
The system of directories on the Arts and Science server has been organized so that individual professors can have their personal home page. These can, of course, be cross-linked to the Department's page, and used for dissemination of information on their particular research and teaching activities.

All this is to encourage your contributions to Concordia's presence on the World Wide Web. Aaron Brauer (7333 or E-mail to AARONBR@VAX2) is the person to contact for accounts on artsci-ccwin.

There are a variety of ways to prepare the "simple" text-based files that are placed on the server: if you are (or become) familiar with the special HTML formatting codes, a text editor is the simplest tool, but there are special editors

and add-ons for common word-processing programs which can help the faint-of-heart. The home page and any associated files are then copied (using FTP) to your account on the server, at which point it becomes accessible to anyone who knows that it exists. Therefore, so that people *can* find it, a link should be added (by Aaron) from the Faculty home page.

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Vice-Dean Administrative Affairs

Teaching Assignments and Part-Time Allocations (1996-97)

Workload meetings are progressing steadily along. I am grateful to all Chairs for their continued efforts to trim while yet maintaining programme profiles. Your cooperation is appreciated and your struggles recognized in this difficult financial period. For those units which haven't yet met with me, I would appreciate receiving your department's submissions at least one week before our meeting.

News from the Dean's Office

Chair Searches

I hope to have met with all the Advisory Search Committees within the next three weeks. For those late in submitting the names of remaining members of the Committee (usually student representatives) I would like to set up the meeting and then have you find someone, from the missing constituency, who can attend. I have received nominations for the position of Chair/Principal for four units: Etudes francaises, Modern Languages and Linguistics, Psychology and Simone de Beauvoir. For those units with no candidates, I will meet with the respective Search Committees and discuss how to proceed. The units involved include: Biology, Classics, Communication Studies, History and Sociology & Anthropology.

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Vice-Dean Student Affairs

I must say, I am a bit overwhelmed by the response that I have received to my first essay on retention. My only complaint is that nobody has been able to identify the 'other guy' in the movie, *'On The Town'*. This means that I will have to rent the video and, quite frankly, I like only the opening number of this Broadway 'classic'.

As I wrote in the previous newsletter, research has repeatedly shown that retention is dependent upon good academic advising and faculty involvement. But what of the second 'R' in 'R and R': Recruitment?

I have discussed this issue in lobbies of CEGEPs many times with my friend, Peter Regimbald, who knows a bit about recruitment. We have talked at length about the importance of offering good programs, of having small classes, and of being accessible to students. We have all of this now. What is important is to get the word out to potential students.

Getting the word out is a bit difficult, but only because of our location: it is not that Concordia is not well known, but rather that the other English language university in town is very well known. Perhaps we should be taking advantage of this. Perhaps we should inform potential students (whether local, out-of-province, or international) that we are not like that other university; in many ways, we are better.

And once here, we should do our best to make their first year an informative, enjoyable, educational experience. We can do this offering well-taught, stimulating, informative introductory courses, by offering quality advising, and by offering strong student support services. Students who are having a good experience will not hesitate to

spread the word to their families, friends, and former high school and CEGEP advisors and counsellors.

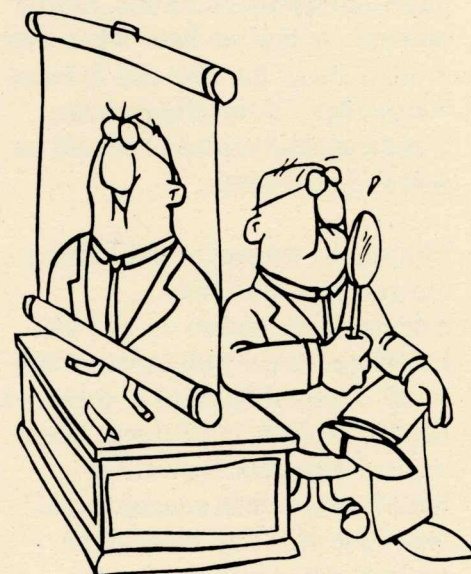
The first year experience is crucial to the retention of our current students and to our subsequent recruitment efforts. This is a major issue being discussed by the working group on student support, established by Dr. Lightstone. There are many possibilities. For example, many universities have had great success with mentoring programs for incoming students, wherein faculty volunteer to meet with five or six students several times throughout the first year. Our working group would be happy to hear your opinion on establishing such a program, or indeed any other suggestions that you might have.

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Funds disbursed from Annual Giving Campaign

The Faculty Development Committee (Dr. G. Auchinachie, English; Dr. B. Woodside, Psychology; Mr. Donald Thomas, Canadian Pacific (alumnus); Ms. C. Kleingrib, University Advancement; Vice-Dean Dr P. Bird; Ms. B. Harris, Acting Budget Manager, and Ms. M. Yates, Assistant to the Dean) met on October 5, 1995 to determine the disbursement of unrestricted funds of \$12,724.22 from Annual Giving 1994-95 and \$2,739 held in reserve from the previous year.

This year, it was agreed to fund the following:

-Student Travel and Initiatives *	\$8000
-Annual lectures	\$3000
-Model United Nations Group	\$1000
-Science Exposition at Stewart Hall	\$1000

-E. Layton Awards, English	\$500
-Held in reserve	\$1963.22

* Information on the exact conditions of this competition will soon be distributed to Chairs by Dr Bird's office. Only one request per department will be considered.

The Faculty also received an amount of \$7,906 in restricted funds, that is, funds designated through donation to specific departments and/or uses within the Faculty. Restricted monies are not intended to fund travel or promotional needs, but should be used to enhance the situation of all students within a department. It was agreed that departments with a minimum of \$200 balance in their budgets will be notified.

- Madeleine Yates

Upcoming Events

- The Concordia UQAM Joint Chair in Ethnic Studies is sponsoring a talk by Dr. Shahrzad Mojab, Assistant Professor of the Department of Applied Social Science, on "Minority Women in Academe" on Wednesday, November 15th at 12:00 p.m. in LB 677. Information: 848-8728.
- The School of Community and Public Affairs is holding a brown-bag Fellows' forum on Public Policy, where the Honourable David MacDonald will present, "Is Canada in Danger of Becoming too Interested: Our Democratic Future," on Tuesday, November 21st at noon at the School, 2149 Mackay. Information: 848-2575.



Upcoming Doctoral Defenses

- Feng Li, Chemistry, will defend his thesis, "Stereoselective Metabolism of β -Androgenic blocking drugs" on Tuesday, November 28, at 2:00 p.m. Thesis supervisor: S. Mikkelsen.
- Kourosh Adl-Zarabi, SIP/Mathematics will defend his thesis, "Existence and properties of absolutely continuous invariant measure for higher dimensional transformations" on Thursday, December 7, at 10:00 a.m. in H 773. Thesis supervisor: P. Gora.

Governor General's Medal *continued from page 1*

Tim is of the gregarious type who gets on well with students, faculty and staff. Besides being a leader in my lab, he was also a leader among our graduate students, serving as their representative on various committees.

One of the pleasures of being a prof is working with students like Tim. I was delighted when he was awarded an NSERC post-doctoral fellowship this spring, as I am now that he has won the Governor General's Medal. I wish him every success as a post-doc, and look forward to him becoming a first-class, independent scientist.

Journalism Diploma Bursary Recipients awarded October 11

Kimberley Malcolm, a 1990 History graduate from University of Calgary, was the winner of two in-course bursaries for Journalism Diploma students this fall. Malcolm, 27, won a Philip S. Fisher bursary of \$2000 and the \$1,200 Susan Carson Memorial bursary when the awards were presented in October.

Andreas Hagelstam, 24, of Mississauga also won a Fisher bursary. The Fisher bursaries, presented annually by the Gazette, are named in honour of the long-time chairman of Southam Inc. who was also president of the Canadian Welfare Council for many years. The Gazette, under former publisher Clark Davey, instituted the Fisher Bursaries when Concordia's Journalism Diploma began in 1987.

The Susan Carson Memorial Bursary is named after a late Montreal Star and Gazette reporter whose work explored social and family issues. The bursary was presented to the Diploma program by family, friends and colleagues upon her untimely death several years ago.

Malcolm, who has lived in Ontario, Newfoundland and Alberta, followed her university studies with a diploma in professional writing from Mount Royal College, Calgary. Along the way, she also competed in rowing at the national level, and

undertook a four-month volunteer assignment in Costa Rica with Canadian Crossroads International. While at university, where she was active in student journalism, she organized a study tour of Bulgaria, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Greece for a group of geography students.

Hagelstam, who is fluent in English, Swedish and French, graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1993 with honours in History and French Literature. Among his summer jobs, he was a counsellor with the London YMCA START program, a federally funded project that encouraged "at risk" youth to stay in school. On leaving Western, he lived in France for two years, teaching English in several French cities and working as an unpaid intern at Fun Radio, a popular Paris radio station.

The bursaries were presented October 11 at a reception hosted by The Gazette. The Fisher bursaries were presented by Gazette Ombudsman Bob Walker and the Carson bursary by Arts and Science Dean Gail Valaskakis.

- Lindsay Crysler, Associate
Professor, Journalism

Professional Expense Allowance Reminder

The Budget Office would like to remind tenure-track professors that they are entitled to claim a professional expense allowance of \$650 per year or \$1300 if a maximum of \$650 was banked the previous year.

Allowable expenditures include expenses related to teaching or research activities, including professional memberships, books, journals, equipment, supplies, conference registration fees and travel and conference-related accommodation costs.

A maximum of two claims may be made for each fiscal year. All expenditures incurred in any given fiscal year **must be claimed in that fiscal year.**

Grants may be credited a lump sum for charges already completed. A signed memo is required, specifying the entire grant number to be credited, describing the expense, and including a copy of the grant report highlighting the charge.

All claims for the 1995-96 fiscal year must be in the Budget Office no later than **April 30, 1996.**

We can be reached at 2094 to answer any questions you may have.

-Barbara Harris

A Visit to Ukraine

by H. Beissel, Professor, English

In the last week of August I flew to Kiev, capital of Ukraine, as a member of a delegation from the Writers' Union to open an exhibition of Canadian books at the Vernadsky Central Library of the Academy of Science of Ukraine.

It was gratifying to see the enthusiasm for Canada which we encountered at every step. This is due largely to the close and long-standing ties established by the many Ukrainian immigrants to this country. As Canadians we were also interesting to Ukrainians because of our democratic traditions and our economic status. Ukraine has suffered Polish and Russian tyrannies in various forms throughout its history, and has only recently become an independent democracy. It needs models, and help, as it emerges from three-score-and-ten years of Soviet dictatorship that have left the country devastated.

The Soviets attempted to eradicate every trace of Ukrainian nationalism and culture, with the object of turning the country, which has vast grain-growing capacities, into Russia's bread basket. Even the Ukrainian language was ruthlessly suppressed, so that many Ukrainians today have never learnt it. School textbooks are in Russian, and there has not been enough time, nor is there enough money and expertise, to replace them. Ukrainians, conse-

quently, find themselves in the ironic situation of having to debate and promote their national culture and language through the medium of the Russian language for which, understandably, they have no affection. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that about 25% of the people of Kiev are native Russians.

The economic problems are at least as complex. The forced collectivization of Ukrainians farmers and farms was a complete disaster, and along with the deliberate underdevelopment of its

industrial base has left its economy in shambles. In fact, the country is bankrupt. Our "guide"-a woman with a university degree, a single mother with a 14-year-old daughter, fluent in several languages, assistant director of the National Library of the Academy of Science and in charge of its international affairs, with 37 librarians working under her--earns the equivalent of \$ 25 per month, half of which she needs for fares to get herself to work and her daughter to school.

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HIV-AIDS Multimedia Education brought to Ukraine

by J. Baggaley, Professor, Education

In April and May, Arts & Science faculty and students took part in a volunteer health education project in the newly independent Republic of Ukraine. The project was sponsored by the Canadian Society for International Health on behalf of the President of Ukraine's National Anti-AIDS Committee. The project included 3rd-year Communication Studies student Helen Baggaley, and Educational Technology graduate students Marta Sadkiewicz, John Bentley and Frank Roop.

The team took multimedia HIV-AIDS education across Ukraine by train, and has been invited to extend its work in parts of Russia,

Lithuania, Moldov, and Byelorussia. In the summer, Education Professor Jon Baggaley, the project leader, and Sheila James, project administrator, returned to Kiev, Moscow and St. Petersburg to discuss funding for a sustained project.

The project team had the opportunity to compare life in the urban centres of Ukraine, including Kiev, Lutsk and Lviv, with that of remote villages on the Polish border. For many of the rural Ukrainians, the Concordia visitors were the first Westerners they had ever met. The team was moved by the warmth and emotion of each community they visited.

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A Visit to Ukraine *continued from page 7*

Except that she hasn't been paid for the last three months; neither have the other employees. There is no money in the treasury. It remained an enigma to us how she, and the thousands like her who refuse to surrender their integrity, manage to survive.

All of which is not to say that we didn't enjoy our visit thoroughly. For one thing, we were received with embarrassingly generous hospitality. And Kiev is a beautiful city, situated on the banks of the Dnepr river. It harbours many cultural treasures, including several magnificent cathedrals and monasteries.

One afternoon we were able to relax on a hydrofoil boat ride on the Dnepr. Looking back at the city built against and up over a steep and high embankment, its skyline dominated by the spires and golden domes of many churches, one got a sense of more illustrious ages now gone by. It is reassuring to know that in the new, independent Ukraine there is a growing number of energetic and committed people determined not only to make democracy work but also to restore the country's former glory. They have a long and rocky road ahead of them.

HIV-AIDS *continued from page 7*

They encountered a solid educational system firmly moderated by traditional community values. They visited proudly maintained historical sites which few foreign tourists have yet discovered, and churches in which, before independence three years ago, worship had been forbidden.

The Concordia group also noted the profound anxiety of many Ukrainians about the likely impact of the values already felt through the dramas and sitcoms of the Western media. They also noted the difficulty which many Ukrainians seem to have in believing that they are now truly and lastingly independent. To those of middle age and older, the days of communism were more predictable and even more comfortable than the present. In Ukraine today there is disease, ongoing tension between Church and State and increasing hardship. For those who can remember the previous political state, therefore, the temptation to return to it is considerable. The Concordia team hopes that, through collaboration with a range of governmental and non-governmental organizations, funding will be found to enable continuing educational and moral support for Ukraine and its former Soviet neighbours in the years ahead.

Layout and design: Lori Dupuis
Editor: Peter Bird

We welcome your comments and feedback on this publication. This publication is a bi-monthly presentation for our Faculty. We are interested in your activities, achievements or ideas which may be of interest to the readers of this newsletter.

Please drop us a brief line with a telephone number for follow-up at DUPUIS@ARTSCI.CONCORDIA.CA.

Chemistry and Biochemistry Graduate Student Awarded Best Poster at Conference

Sotira Pichos, a graduate student of Dr Youla Tsantrizos in the department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, won Best Poster Presentation for her paper, "Genotoxic Metabolites of the Fungus *Tolypocladium geodis*" by the Biological/Medicinal Chemistry Division of the Canadian Society of Chemistry at its 78th Conference held in Guelph, Ontario in June.